W E’re not big TV people at our house. In fact, I can count about three shows in 15 years — outside of Fighting Illini sports — that we’d count as “must-see TV.”

We had a “Law & Order” phase, way back before kids, when 9 p.m. on Wednesday was blacked out for serious concentration. And if the Peoria TV station pre-empted an episode to let the Bradley University basketball game run into the first 10 minutes? Aggravation. Because if you miss the first 10 minutes, you might as well give up. Clearly, we were involved in this show.

Sometime after the kids were born — during those sleepless, hazy early years — my husband discovered “American Chopper.” The show followed a volatile father and his two sons who built chopper motorcycles in their rural New York business, Orange County Choppers. I didn’t get it. Motorcycles. Whatever. But John doesn’t get enthused about a lot of TV, and he really liked this one. So I started watching with him. Then one day I saw someone in an OCC T-shirt and realized I actually knew what that meant.

About a year ago, another farm family told us about “Duck Dynasty.” We tuned in; it was love at first sight. Family business, Christians, hilarious and a powerful message every episode about working with family. And doesn’t everybody have a little bit of Uncle Si in their family, somewhere? I think so.

It’s no coincidence that these two shows have stood out to us over time: Both are good reality shows (among a lot of reality trash), both about fathers and sons working together, both about industries very different from farming but equally specific and insular, both about families who fight with each other but (in “Duck Dynasty,” anyway) figure out how to get along. Hmmm … sounds like farming, no?

They’re just TV shows, and they’re a lot of fun. But they’ve also sparked a few conversations around our house and among our friends. So without further ado, here’s what we’ve learned from DD and OCC that might possibly, maybe, just apply to the farm!

1. Figure out what everybody brings to the business. Both shows feature families where the father has been quite successful. Over time, they bring their sons into the business. In both families, the sons have different strengths from the fathers. That’s where the similarities end.

2. End your day with family and prayer. Eat together. The “Duck Dynasty” folks end each show gathered around the table. Amen. Our variation would be gathered.

The father on “Duck Dynasty” recognized his sons’ strengths and let them run with the business. The result: huge success. The father on “American Chopper” never recognizes his son’s talent. The result: huge frustration, huge fights and now a spin-off show where the father and son are competing.

When I see that windsock turn and lift a little, I think to myself, “Here we go.”

A subtle shift in wind speed or direction can signal a change in the weather. Which can be good or bad, depending on if it’s too wet or too dry, too cold or too hot already. The fact is, environmental stresses of all kinds can hamper plant development and limit crop yields. Quilt Xcel® fungicide protects growing corn, soybeans and wheat from the inside, against whatever’s happening outside. To learn more, visit us online at QuiltXcel.com or talk to your Syngenta retailer.